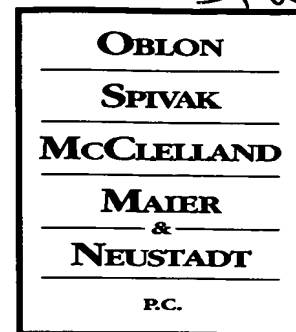


Docket No.: 245637US0

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

NORMAN F. OBLON
(703) 413-3000
NOBLON@OBLON.COM

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/716,427
Applicants: Takashi TATSUMI, et al.
Filing Date: November 20, 2003
For: MESOPOROUS SILICA AND PROCESS FOR
PRODUCING THE SAME
Group Art Unit: 1621

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

Status Request First Office Action (in duplicate)

Our check in the amount of \$0 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

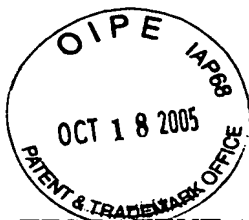
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

Customer Number

22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone)
(703) 413-2220 (fax)

DOCKET NO.: 245637US0/sta



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Takashi TATSUMI, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/716,427

GROUP NO: 1621

FILED: November 20, 2003

FOR: MESOPOROUS SILICA AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

FIRST OFFICE ACTION STATUS REQUEST

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to inform the undersigned of the approximate date a first Official Action will be issued in this Application.

A duplicate of this letter is enclosed for your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Surinder Sachar".

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 10/04)